



“Training Warriors To Keep The Corps Connected.”

THE CONNECTOR

**Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School
October 2007**



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COMMANDING OFFICER SENDS

"I've been here for 3 months now and I am very proud of each and everyone of you! You all work hard, have accepted the changes in place, and continue to progress the school into the future. So thank you! I am honored and humbled to serve you - that is my role and I am honored.

The one critical item I think the school lacks is a Warrior Mindset. Our country will be at war for a long time. Continue to push MCMAP, conduct PT in the proper manner, and stress a warrior mindset to your students in conjunction with MCMAP - we are ethical warriors - we value life!! We'll be conducting a MAI Course between the holidays, an O'Course is in the works for the school, and I want ALL Marines to score a First Class on the PFT.

Safety: Take care of each other, look out for each other and treat the person next to you more important than you treat yourself. The "BUDDY PROGRAM" is a great program - designed for Force Preservation - meaning YOU!! Each our most and every one of you is valuable asset....and have productive fun!!"

S/F

Col K. J. Nally

MCCES 2007 Field Meet

The 29th Annual MCCES Field Meet and 65th (Olympiad) Birthday Celebration was held at Victory Field on October 5th. The activities are designed to provide a day of spirit de corps and camaraderie to celebrate the MCCES 65th birthday while simultaneously holding organized events among MCCES companies, with the winner walking away with a Winners trophy and the loser receiving the Toilet Bowl trophy.

There were numerous events such as basketball, softball and volleyball competitions. Also a 10K run and companies running in formation to Victory Field. Games played were pull-up/flexed arm competition, egg-toss, tug-o-war pull, dizzy-izzy, aardvark relay, HMMWV pull, and composite relay. There was enough food to feed the masses. The event culminated with Headquarters Company taking home the Winner's trophy while Charlie Company took home the Toilet Bowl trophy. It was a fun time had by all and all are looking forward to next years event! Below are photos from Olympiad:



The Connector is a product of the MCCES Reprographics Section. It is edited and assembled of articles and pictures provided by personnel within MCCES. If you would like to add an article relevant to MCCES and its personnel forward them to Kathleen.Hoard@usmc.mil or call 830-6520. Also mail articles via regular mail to MCCES, Commanding Officer., Reprographics, Box 788251, MCAGC, 29 Palms, CA 92278-8251



*FROM THE DESK OF
MCCES
CAREER PLANNER*

FY-08 FTAP BRIEF

I'd like to take this opportunity to clear up some confusion about dates and term used in the career planner force that affect the individual Marine. First a few definitions: First Term Alignment Plan, or FTAP is a Marine on their first term or contract with the USMC. Opposite of that is a Subsequent Term Alignment Plan, or STAP Marine who is on their second or subsequent contract or term with the USMC. A LCpl. should be a FTAP'er and a GySgt. should be a STAP'er.

FTAP Marines need to keep track of the fiscal year. Their EAS falls somewhere between 1 Oct and 31 Sep. That is a FY and a FTAP Marine must reenlist during that time regardless of where his/her EAS is during that year (if it's an Oct EAS an extension will be needed to avoid pay problems). STAP (AKA Careerists) can reenlist one calendar year out from their EAS. This means submitting the request vice actually raising their hands for reenlistment. Early requests can be submitted if you are in receipt of orders and a 23 month extension will not give you enough time for the obligated service to PCS.

FTAP Marines also get a duty station incentive. This is the best time in your Marine Corps Career to tell the monitor where you want to go. They cannot always guarantee your first choice, but they can work with you at that time. Careerists on the other hand, can try to work something out with their monitors, but ultimately they will send you where they need you to go.

Check out future installments to learn more of the small details that can have a big impact on your future. I will discuss things like special duty assignments (B-billets), Sgt's and above who are passed over for promotion, what about those getting out and many other important topics

Points of contact

For those of you who don't know you can now reach me at all times. My command cell phone number is 760-401-4647 I will also have wireless connection to my e-mail so send away to Roy.Perrin@usmc.mil.

MCCES 2007 Field Meet Continued



*Happy 65th
Birthday MCCES*



MCCES Fun Run Final Standings



Half Marathon-Male Overall

1st Place: Joseph K. Parisi: 1:31:58

2nd place: Don Tolbert: 1:36:20

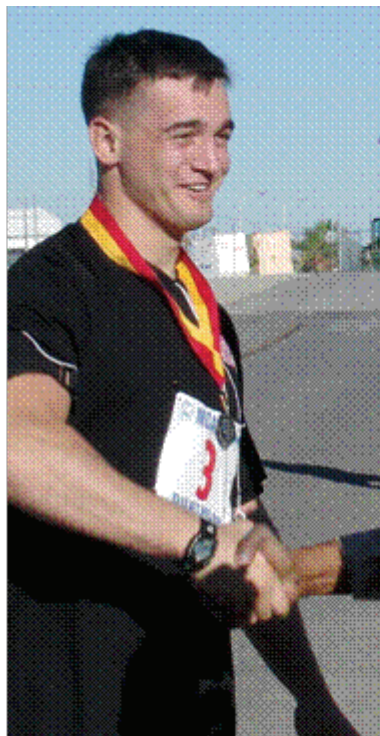
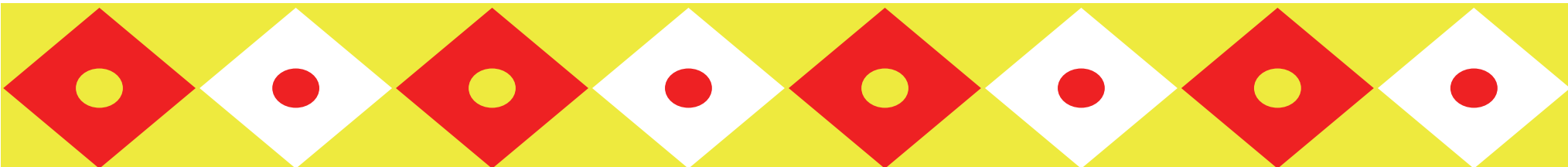
3rd Place Jeff Daniels: 1:37:47

Half Marathon-Female Overall

1st Place: Faviola Pamaatz: 1:39:18

2nd place: Milissa Dowd: 1:53:43

3rd Place: Kristy Runyan: 2:05:49



10 K-Male Overall

1st Place: Heroides Aguirre: 0:46:25

2nd Place: Bret A. Bolding: 0:49:14

3rd Place: Raymond Attaway: 0:49:41

10 K-Female Overall

1st Place: Juana E. Hamlett: 0:56:19

2nd Place: Jessica J. Mullen: 1:01:58

3rd Place: Vilmary Hunck: 1:02:52



Team Half Marathon



1st Place-1:46:32

Ivory Taylor
David O'neil
Knathan Lefever
John Wheeler
Nicholas Bushing

2nd Place-2:30:57

Justin Piacenza
Emmanuel Cruz
Dustin Ratlift
Christopher Bennington
Jonathan Arias

3rd Place-2:59:59

Thomas Mendez
Joshua Ramos
Nathaneil Einarsen
Jack Brants
Kendrick Bowman

10 K

Women Half Marathon

Men Half Marathon

20-29 YR Age Group

Male

1st: Heroides Aguirre-46:25
2nd: Raymond Attaway-49:41
3rd: Jason Burgins-52:37

20-29 YR Age Group

Female

1st: Kristy Runyan-2:05:49

12-19 YR Age Group

Male

1st: Matahew Cooper-1:42:59
2nd: Nathaniel Einarsen-2:01:31
3rd: Jerrel Evans-2:04:00

30-39 YR Age Group

Male

1st: Chad Craven-49:42
2nd: Russell Cromley-53:37
3rd: Kurt Meves-54:00

30-39 YR Age Group

Female

1st: Faviola Pamaatz-1:39:18
2nd: Milissa Dowd- 1:53:43

20-29 YR Age Group

Male

1st: John Wheeler-1:41:17
2nd: John Borrell-1:47:20
3rd: Nicholas Bushing-1:47:52

40+ YR Age Group

Male

1st: Bret A. Bolding-49:14
2nd: Craig L. Wright-51:54
3rd: Robert Lazano-52:58



30-39 YR Age Group

Male

1st: Joseph K. ?-1:31:58
2nd: Jeff Daniels-1:37:47
3rd: Scott Humr-1:41:50

30-39 YR Age Group

Female

1st: Juana E. Hamlett-56:19
2nd: Jessica J. Mullen-1:01:58
3rd: Vilmary Hunck-1:02:52

40+ YR Age Group

Male

1st: Don Tolbert-1:36:20
2nd: Charles Carrol-2:21:41



Tie-Breaker

By Rob Cloutier

Instructors should always give their students a good verbal review of information they were taught the day before the students take their written exam. Reviews can be boring, and some students don't seem to grasp the material even if the instructor tells them the information a thousand times. I try to make reviews enjoyable and somewhat fun. One of the best ways to review information is by playing a game like Jeopardy. I divide the class into two teams and a member from each team stands in the back of the classroom to play the game. Team members rotate their turn so that every student gets a chance to answer a question. The problem I encountered was that it was difficult to determine who "buzzed in" first. There are a number of ways to have the students "buzz in" but all of them were unacceptable without an electronic device. I searched the Internet for a "buzz in" gadget, but they were too expensive. I found a couple of electronic project schematics that were close to what I was looking for but it wasn't exactly what I wanted. I ended up designing my own electronic device that I call the "Tie-Breaker".

Figure 1 is the schematic diagram of the "Tie-Breaker". Figure 2 is the circuit board layout before soldering. Figure 3 is the inside layout of all components. Figure 4 is the finished product. Old dry erase markers were used as the push button handles.

Switch S1 turns on the system and switch S4 resets the LEDs to off. The first player to press their button gets their LED lit and the buzzer will sound for one second. Subsequent pressing of either player button will have no effect until the S4 reset button is pressed. A third player may be added using pins 1 - 6 on the second 4013 IC. Each additional 4013 IC will allow you to add two more players.

You can build your own "Tie-Breaker" for about \$20. Most of the parts are probably in your spare electronics stash. A fully stocked Radio Shack will have all the parts you need to build the "Tie-Breaker". The following complete parts list may be ordered at www.jameco.com.

Label	Description	Part #	Price
S1	TOG, SPDT	21936	\$ 1.15
S2,3,4	PB, SPST	26622	\$ 1.95
4013 x2	Flip-Flop	12678	\$.36
555	Timer	27422	\$.29
D1,2	1N914	655269	\$.25
LED 1,2	Super Red	354802	\$ 1.52
R1	3.3k ohms	690988	\$.01
R2,3,5,7,8	10k ohms	691104	\$.05
R4,6	1k ohms	690865	\$.02
C1	100 uF	207811PS	\$.06
C2,4	.01 uF	15229	\$.12
C3	.0022 uF	138182	\$.08
Buzzer	9-15VDC	140695	\$ 1.55
Box	Enclosure	675569	\$ 3.55
Board	1.6 x 2.7	105099	\$ 5.25
Shipping			\$ 7.00
Total			\$23.21

Jeopardy has a limited amount of questions that can be asked during a review, so I perform my review a little differently. I create written fill-in-the-blank questions for each lesson plan and every morning I give my students a quiz on the information that was taught the day before. The day before my students take the actual written exam, I split the class into two teams and set up the "Tie-Breaker" device in the middle and towards the back of the classroom. Team members take their turn at the button. Buttons may be hidden under the player's arm so their opponent doesn't know when they press the button until the buzzer sounds. Instead of playing Jeopardy, which limits the amount of questions that can be asked, I read out load the quiz questions to test their knowledge. The first team member to "buzz in" gets to answer the question. If the team member answers correctly, then their team gets a point. If the team member gives the wrong answer, then their team loses a point. If the first player that "buzzes in" answers incorrectly, then the other team player gets a chance to "steel the point". If they decide not to answer the question then the instructor reviews the question so that the entire class understands what the correct answer is. If the other team player decides to go ahead and answer the question then they will get a point for their team if they answer correctly or lose a point if they answer incorrectly. After all quiz questions have been asked, the points are added up and the losing team has to field day the classroom or do daily cleanup until the next review, or something similar to that.

The "Tie-Breaker" is a great way to promote competition and it encourages students to study because no one wants to lose during the review.

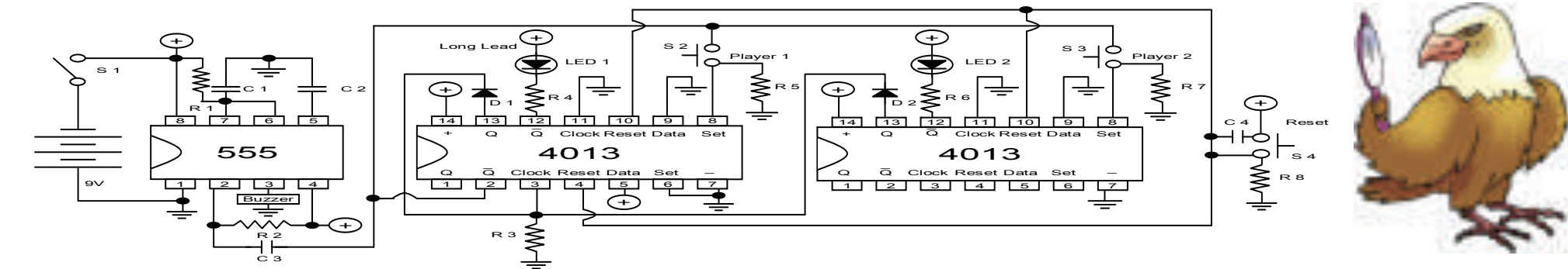


Figure 1

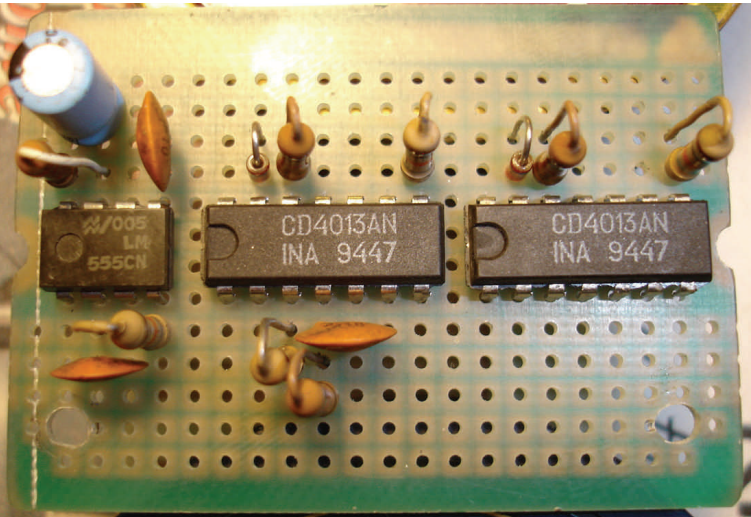


Figure 2

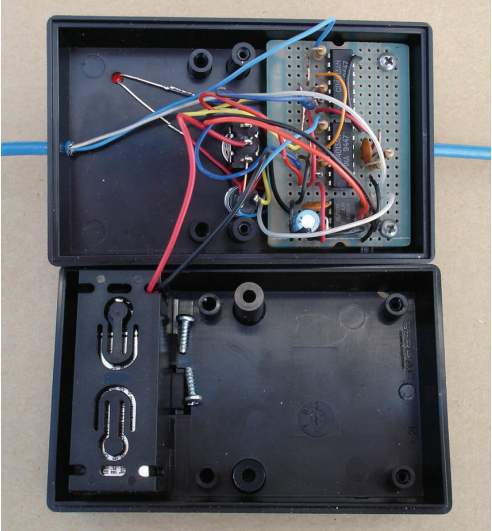


Figure 3



Figure 4

MCCES Marines Train to Handle Toxic Spills

By GySgt Camilla Lawson, Curriculum Administrator, Alpha Company

It is often reported in the news about overturned tanker trucks carrying hazardous materials. The footage shows people in "space suits" and breathing apparatuses cleaning up the toxic chemicals while police officer and fire fighters block access and sometimes evacuate surrounding areas. Although not as drastic of a scene, for a week in September, MCCES Marines participated in simulated exercises aimed at qualifying them to be Emergency Responders to Hazardous Materials spills. The 40-hour course taught by instructors from Environmental Training and Compliance (ETAC) was hosted by Base Safety and conducted in Alpha Company class rooms. The class teaches students how to respond to a spill, identify hazardous substances, determine dangers to life, health, and the environment, and then secure the site and clean it according to state and federal standards. The course includes lectures and demonstrations, along with projects that ensure the students can correctly initiate the appropriate response to an emergency. The practical exercises allow the students to use the plans developed in the class room and also practice using specific safety equipment such as respirators and Tyvek suits. To make the simulated clean-up exercise more challenging, students had to extract an injured person from the contaminated site and perform rapid decon procedures in order to prepare the person for medical transport. The Emergency Responder training has its origin in the military NBC procedures so many of the Marines in the class were already confident in the basic procedures. The additional training ensures that they now can also handle the actual clean-up process.



Toxic
waste

Seasons Greetings from Chaplain Hester and Chaplain Moran!

During this holiday season, MCCES is pleased to announce that there are now two chaplains available to students, personnel, and their families to assist with pastoral, spiritual, and counseling needs.

Chaplain Hester, LT, CHC, USN, is a member of the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches and is endorsed by the Coalition of Spirit-filled Churches. Chaplain Hester has experienced combat deployment and is a Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer. Prior to arriving at this command, he served as command chaplain aboard the USS DETROIT (AOE 4), as battalion chaplain with 3D BN, 7TH MAR, and as Acting Deputy Regimental Chaplain with Seventh Marines Regiment here at Twentynine Palms, CA.

Chaplain Moran, LT, CHC, USN, is endorsed by the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Adventist Chaplain Ministries. Prior to arriving at this command, he served as a CREDO chaplain at Marine Corps West, Camp Pendleton, as a staff chaplain aboard the USS PELLIU (LHA 5), and as a MCAGCC Religious Ministries Directorate (RMD) chaplain to Robert E. Bush Naval Hospital here at Twentynine Palms, CA.

While both of us hail from Protestant Christian traditions and provide religious services according to our Christian faith, we are also committed to serving all Marines and Sailors – including those of other faiths and those claiming no faith at all. Please do not hesitate to call us at 830-6187 or to come by our office at building # 1651 to let us know how we can best serve you. It is a new beginning and we are excited about the possibilities!

As both of us prayed about an encouraging word to share as we begin our ministries here at MCCES, a wonderful Scripture came to mind:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).

God, indeed, has plans for all of His people here at MCCES and we look forward to living them out along with all of you during this holiday season and beyond!

Remembering the special reason for the season, we wish you all HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

God bless!!

Chaplain Hester, LT, CHC, USN and Chaplain Moran, LT, CHC, USN

Monday Night MCCES Football!

The MCCES football team ended their season Monday, Oct 22, with a loss to Tanks. They made it all the way to the semi-finals but couldn't outscore the number three team of the league. It was a long, hard fought game with plenty of action for the number two MCCES team. Next year will be their year to shine. Congratulations for the great season and also thanks for the fan support !



MCCES 4th Annual Fall Fun Run Team Winners

